

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206866

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. AS YOU KNOW FROM STATE 202809, HUD UNDERSECRETARY JOHN RHINELANDER, WILL BE IN MOSCOW SEPT 15-16 WITH ECE STUDY TOUR. HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH ARBATOV AND ASSOCIATES WHILE IN MOSCOW, IF THEY ARE WILLING AND IF IT CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH TOUR ORGANIZERS. HE IS A BROAD-GAUGE TYPE (SERVED ON OUR SALT DELEGATION 1969-71) AND I BELIEVE AN ENCOUNTER WOULD BE MUTUALLY USEFUL. AS NOTED IN CABLE, HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR.

2. YOUR 13078 ON SOVIET RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA IS MUCH APPRECIATED. INFORMATION-LADEN REPORTING OF THIS SORT HAS A HIGH UTILITY HERE.

3. WE SEE NO OBJECTION TO AMBASSADOR MENTIONING CONSULAR REVIEW TALKS AT PRESS BRIEFING.

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4. CONSULAR REVIEW: IN RESPONSE TO MOSCOW 13077 WE WILL

TRY TO GET SOMETHING OUT IN RESPONSE TO MFA'S PROPOSALS ABOUT VISA PROCESSING TIME. WE TENTATIVELY HOPE TO BE ABLE TO (A) EXTEND THE 5-DAY RULE TO LENINGRAD AND SAN FRANCISCO; (B) GET SOME COMMITMENT TO ISSUE EXPEDITIOUSLY ON A POST-CHECK BASIS TRANSIT VISAS FOR IMMEDIATE AND CONTINUOUS TRANSIT; AND (C) MAKE THE MFA-SUGGESTED ISSUANCE TIMES "TARGETS" IN SOME OF THE OTHER CATEGORIES WITHOUT ENTERING INTO ANY FORMAL COMMITMENTS WITH MFA. (WE HAVE POUCHED TO YOU REVISED BUSVIS PROCEDURES WHICH REDUCE VISA PROCESSING TIME FOR MOST VISITS TO TWO WEEKS, BUT ANY FURTHER STREAMLING IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS VERY UNLIKELY.) ONE POINT IN PARA 7 MOSCOW 13077-INS VIENNA WOULD PRESUMABLY GRANT GROUP WAIVERS FOR LISTS OF FOUR OR MORE SOVIETS, BUT INS VIENNA USED TO REQUIRE THAT A LIST OF VISAS ISSUED UNDER GROUP WAIVERS, PERFECTLY TYPED ON BOND PAPER, BE SUBMITTED TO INS VIENNA FOR INCLUSION IN SOME REPORT. OUR EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION WAS UNWILLING TO TAKE ON THE CLERICAL BURDEN OF TYPING THE LISTS FOR INS VIENNA IN ADDITION TO TYPING THE ORIGINAL CABLES, SO WE MAINTAINED THE PRACTICE OF OBTAINING SUCH WAIVERS FROM WASHINGTON. IF, HOWEVER, YOU WOULD PREFER NOW TO OBTAIN THE GROUP WAIVERS FROM VIENNA, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

5. NOTICE FROM YOUR A-235 THAT KEN YALOWITZ PARTICIPATED IN AN INFORMAL MEETING OF MARITIME OFFICERS OF ALLIED COUNTRY EMBASSIES. WE THINK THIS AN EXCELLENT IDEA AND THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF THIS GROUP COULD MEET OCCASIONALLY TO EXCHANGE THOUGHTS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOVIET MERCHANT MARINE, WITHOUT BECOMING AN OBLIGATORY AFFAIR.

6. RE KIEV, SORRY IN OUR HASTE WE DID NOT MAKE CLEAR THAT WE DID INTEND TO BRACE THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE. WE WERE, AND ARE, RELUCTANT TO MAKE THREATS ABOUT KICKING THEM OUT OF NEW YORK WITHOUT CLEARING HIGH UP, BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE TO MAKE THREATS AND THEN BE UNABLE TO CARRY THEM OUT. AN AT THIS POINT IN TIME I AM CERTAIN WE COULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN CLEARANCE. IF WE DON'T GET RESULTS FROM KNOOP VISIT, WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT NEW YORK LATER IF WE ARE REALLY READY TO HAVE A CONFRONTATION OVER THESE VISITS.

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7. ANOTHER FACTOR YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF IS THAT JOAN FEELS UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO SPEND OUR MONEY DURING THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER. IF KNOOP VISIT HAD BEEN WASHED OUT, WE WERE NOT SURE WHEN HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE AGAIN.

8. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON QA EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS (MOSCOW 13079) WAS EXCE-LENT CONTRIBUTION TO COMMON SENSE ON THIS UNDERTAKING. OPTION 4 IS A GREAT IDEA AND WE WILL PUSH

IT HERE. ROBINSON

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